



### ANCIENT TEMPLE RUINS FOUND OFF BIMINI ISLANDS

As we went to press last issue, news was just filtering through of a spectacular underwater discovery of ancient stone temple ruins off the Bimini Islands in the Bahamas. With thoughts of Atlantis reeling in our heads, we followed up developments with Aaron Du Val, president of the Egyptology Society (associated with the Miami Museum of Science) which is processing information about the site.

The Society's press releases (first issued on 21 June, with the latest on 2 August) tell as much of the story so far as can be announced, so here we feature edited highlights and promise to publish updates as they come to hand. We are withholding contact details as Mr Du Val says that the Society and Museum have already been swamped with requests for information and wish to protect the site above all else.

### RUINS OLDER THAN 12,000 YEARS

Miami, Florida — The Egyptology Society, an affiliate of the Miami Museum of Science, is pleased to announce the discovery of tangible archaeological evidence which points to the former existence of an advanced civilisation that built temples near Bimini which can be geologically dated as being more than 12,000 years old.

Preliminary analysis has revealed that

the original structures, although smaller in size, appear to have been more advanced than the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. Casing stones have been measured which are of the same unique angle as those at the Great Pyramid.

There are exact orbital plots of the planets and what seem to have been intricate star shafts, metal-coated walls and intermingled stones of various colours including red, white and black.

Other characteristics either closely match or are identical to features at megalithic sites in Peru, the Yucatán and other parts of Mexico, and in Ireland and Scandinavia.

### CALCULATOR/CALENDAR SYSTEM

Miami, Florida — Analysis of these enigmatic ancient temples built near Bimini over 12,000 years ago has only just begun. However, interesting characteristics concerning the mysterious people who pro-



Somerville

## THE TWILIGHT ZONE

duced these megalithic structures are beginning to emerge. It appears that the most important or revered numbers associated with these ruins were the numbers five and nine. These numbers were also of great significance to the ancients of Egypt and Meso-America.

Evidence indicates that a 'chequer-board' calculator system was being used. Examples of this system were found on top of the Great Pyramid and were long used for numerical calculations in Meso-America. This same chequer-board pattern shows up on the lintel stones of temples built by Celts of Iberian origin. According to some astronomers, this pattern also served as a calendar regulator to measure the sunrise and sunset directions on solstices and equinoxes.

Although many maps of the heavenly realm adorn various walls of these mysterious Bimini temples, there is an almost complete lack of other markings—just as found in the pyramids at Giza. Of the limited glyphs that do exist, however, strangely enough several match those found in the famous Altamira Cave, known as "the Sistine Chapel of prehistory", containing the well-known bison painting.

### QUARRY MARKS AND SKY MAPS

Miami, Florida — The ruins of ancient temples, which were built near Bimini over 12,000 years ago, have been discovered. This initial dating is based on generally accepted geological evidence involving the location at which the temples were built.

The ruins are megalithic and, though obviously here in the Western hemisphere, bear a remarkable resemblance to ancient sites in Egypt. So-called "quarry marks", found in the Aswan quarries and also on the Great Pyramid itself, appear to be identical matches with those found on the Bimini temple stones.

One major difference between the Egyptian sites and these stones, however, is that on the Bimini stones can be found a great number of sky maps on which are recorded the paths of various heavenly bodies. The major concern of the mysterious ancient civilisation that produced these heavenly maps seems to have been Saturn and Jupiter—with the oldest records reflecting and emphasising Saturn.

The stones are already drawing international attention, and aggressive research and analysis projects are being set up with the hope of commencing more involved investigations shortly.

The unnamed discoverers have given the ancient temple ruins the title of "The Scott Stones", in honour of the professor who laid down the clues which made the discovery possible.

Although further press releases will be issued, the exact location of the site is being withheld for the present until the proper government officials and museums can be notified.

Information on the Scott stones is currently being processed by the Egyptology Society of the Miami Museum of Science in Miami, Florida, USA.

### HERMETICALLY SEALED REMAINS

Miami, Florida — The ancient temple near Bimini was built by an unknown advanced civilisation which apparently was thriving while most of the rest of the world was plodding through the Stone Ages.

One of the unique features of the ancient ruins is that these stones may be far more likely to yield an accurate account of their true age than most of the famous megalithic sites around the world.

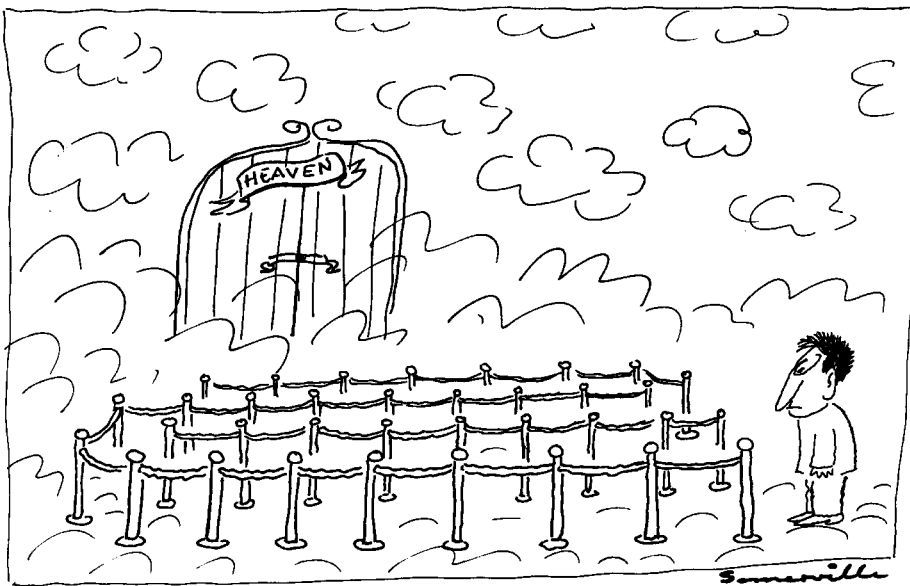
To begin with, the area in which they were built, geologists tell us, has been underwater for about 12,000 years. There are also instances in which lava has flowed in between some of the temple stones, which may give scientists an approximate date when samples are submitted to testing.

The antiquity of the stones almost leaps out upon first glance. There are hollows, which have been left in certain broken stones, that have undergone such an extensive amount of crystal growth upon their inner surfaces that they now look like the insides of geodes. In many cases the cement that once held the huge stones together is now completely crystallised. Even more telling is the fact that some of the massive granite blocks themselves now exhibit significant portions which have metamorphosed over the ages to the point where they are no longer even granite.

But perhaps most significant of all is the fact that organic matter has been found within an hermetic seal, along with unrust-ed, worked iron. The iron began to rust soon after the seal was opened, however, which would indicate that the seal had prevented the entry of oxygen for thousands of years. The organic matter was in pristine condition and should prove to be an interesting target for dating procedures. Other hermetic seals are known to exist as well, but have yet to be opened.

Exactly how old are the Scott stones? Will this ancient megalithic site be one of the first to yield an accurate account of its true age? Did men work iron before the Iron Age? We may soon know!

(Source: Aaron Du Val, President, Egyptology Society, Miami Museum of Science, Miami, Florida, USA; press releases issued between 21 June and 2 August 1997; no further releases issued as at mid-September 1997.)



## ABOMINABLE SIGHTINGS

The yeti, the so-called "Abominable Snowman" of the Himalayas, has been dismissed by most scientists as a creature born of myth and imagination, but what if it really exists?

Italian mountain climber Reinhold Messner claims to have encountered the yeti four times—once close enough to touch it. He says he had his first glimpse of a yeti in 1986 in eastern Tibet after tracking its 16-inch-wide footprints. Ten years later, in June last year, he bought a skeleton from nomads on a 6,000-foot plain in Ladakh, between India and Pakistan, and began searching the area in earnest.

"I searched for a week, 12 hours a day, in an area with no trees," he says. "I didn't expect to find one so soon. First we saw a mother with her child. I could only take a photograph from the back. The child had bright red fur; the older animal's fur was black. She was over two metres tall, with dark hair, just like the legend. When they saw us, they disappeared."

Messner claims to have taken a photograph of the mother yeti tending her child, but just two days after that sighting, Messner and his companions came across a sleeping yeti. They managed to creep to within 20 yards of the creature so they could video and photograph it. They stood there gazing at it for three minutes.

"Then he woke and saw us. He looked at us like a small child who has just met someone for the first time. We stood eye to eye—I could have touched him. Then he stood up and slowly walked away."

Messner describes adult yetis as about six foot six inches tall. He says yetis communicate with their kind by whistling. Shy creatures, they tend to come out at night to feed and are thought to be carnivorous. He estimates there may be a thousand yetis in the Himalayas, well hidden in dense forest.

These are extraordinary claims, but then Messner is a legend amongst mountaineers. Now aged 52, he was the first man to climb Mt Everest alone, without oxygen, and reportedly is the only man to have climbed the world's 14 highest mountains. His skills have taken him to places few others have reached, including some of the most isolated valleys of the Himalayas.

However, Messner is not yet ready to show his photographic evidence. We have to wait for the book he is writing to be

published, and that may take another two years. If Messner can release his videos and photos, this would be the first solid evidence of a creature that has been reported every decade or so for 150 years but which is still generally ascribed to legend.

Certainly the Sherpas of the region around Mt Everest firmly believe in the existence of the yeti, but, despite reports of tracks and occasional sightings, hard evidence is extremely difficult to come by.

Rumours of the yeti began to circulate in the West from 1832, when the first Englishman to live in Nepal heard of a creature which moved with an erect gait and was covered in long, dark hair.

It has other local names: *metohkangmi*, *mirka*, *sogpa*, *mlgo*. The first means "filthy snowman", but a mistranslation by a journalist covering the 1921 expedition to Everest gave it the name that ever since has stuck to the unfortunate creature, though it is generally supposed to be gentle and shy rather than abominable.

In that year, 32 witnesses (six British climbers and 26 Sherpas) saw tracks ascribed to the yeti, although bears, goats or snow leopards were other explanations.

Tracks have been seen and photographed in the valleys closest to Everest, most notably by Eric Shipton, leader of the

British reconnaissance expedition to Everest in 1951—but many of Shipton's friends thought his reputation as a practical joker threw some doubt on those photos.

While leading the expedition that conquered Everest in 1953, Sir John Hunt was told by the chief lama of the monastery where he was camping that a yeti had played in the snow in a

nearby meadow the year before and had been scared away by the noise from conch-shell horns.

Dr Karl Schuker, a British zoologist and yeti researcher, said there could be some truth to Messner's claims.

"There have been yeti sightings over a 1,400-mile range of the Himalayas from Pakistan through India to Tibet and even Burma," he says.

"They divide into three types: the 'original' yeti is red; there is a taller giant black species; and there have been a few sightings of a smaller, red sub-species."

"Messner's sightings have thrown new light on those classifications. The red species may be simply a younger yeti which acquires black hair as it grows."

It might be very bad luck for the yeti if its existence were absolutely confirmed at last. In time, no doubt one will be captured but it would be unlikely to survive for long away from the thin air and great altitude of the mountains.

However, confirmation of the yeti would be of immense scientific importance, and would cast new light on sightings of its cousins such as Australia's yowie and North America's Bigfoot or Sasquatch.

(Source: Julian Champkin, *Daily Mail* [UK], 16 August 1997)

